

NITE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

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DECEMBER 1988

NITE-TIMES INFO

The Nite-Times News is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. For an annual fee of \$10.00 you can become a CATUG member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to CATUG Treasurer, Al Feng at 15 Wake Robin Ct, Woodridge, Illinois 60517. The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting groups. If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article, please mail it to:

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group
Nite-Times News Editor
1885A Yorktown Avenue
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088.

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CATUG MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Just a quick reminder that we are at the end of 1988 and your 1989 membership dues will be required soon. Please make your check for \$10.00 payable to Al Feng. It is difficult cashing checks that are payable to the CATUG. We do recommend that you write a memo on the check that it is for CATUG dues. Mail your checks to:

CATUG Treasurer Al Feng
15 Wake Robin Ct
Woodridge, IL 60517

DECEMBER MEETING NOTES

The December meeting of the CATUG was on Saturday, the 10th with twelve members in attendance. There were several demonstrations provided for the TS-2068 users, including a TC-2048 with Interface I and the ZX Microdrives, a TS-2068 with a Zebra FDD System, a TS-2068 with a Larken FDD and 256K RAM-Disk, and a TS-2068 with the JLD FDD.

Key positions within the CATUG were discussed and voted on. The following are the CATUG officers and points of contact for 1989:

President ----- Butch Weinberg
Treasurer ----- Al Feng
Text Librarian ----- Bob Svoger
Meeting Coordinator - Steve Cooper
Public Relations ---- John Ulreich
Newsletter Editor --- Gary Lessenberry

It was also decided that the CATUG would join the SNUG as a user group affiliate, that meetings would be moved up to the second saturday of each month, and that a years subscription to QL World be purchased for the group.

TS-2068 HOME ROM BYPASS

By William Pedersen

A major barrier to fixing the problems in the HOME ROM is one of access. Even though the ROM is socketed, you still have to open up the case and risk damage.

This article shows how to replace the HOME ROM without touching a screw. It is not really necessary to replace ROM with EPROM. A battery backed-up static RAM would do as well if equipped with a READ ONLY switch. That way, the RAM can be written and then be switched to write-protect state. The saving in time over EPROM burning is very impressive. Of course, you will use EPROM in the end.

This unit does not preclude using the DOCK port if it has an extension connector and plugs into the DOCK slot. If you have a buss expander with slots, it can mount there, leaving the DOCK slot clear, but the former is what most will use.

The design in Fig 1 is for the case where you might have both. It works just as well if you don't have a buss expander.

Inside the case, and not externally available, is the signal which enables the HOME ROM chip. This signal is labeled ROMCS.

Our problem is to get ROMCS externally by a logic operation, and to prevent conflict with the external ROM.

Preventing conflict with internal ROM is easy. We just issue BE whenever HOME ROM is addressed.

Detecting when HOME ROM is being addressed is a bit more difficult, but quite straight-forward.

The HOME ROM is NOT being addressed whenever:

1. Either of the address lines A14 or A15 is high,
2. EXROM is low for EXROM addressed,
3. ROSCS is low for DOCK addressed,
4. BE is low from another addressed bank,
5. MREQ is high, indicating I/O or interrupt cycle, or
6. RD is high, indicating a write cycle.

What logic could be simpler to implement?

For over a year, I have used such a system of to implement bank switching, but external "ROM" is core memory instead of battery backed-up RAM. It works like a charm, and can store grandfather copies of trial ROM images.

Now that the creation of new ROMs for the TS-2068 has gotten a lot of attention, it would be a shame to let that year of working experience go to waste.

Much of the "clutter" in the existing ROM should be removed to an expansion bank. The most glaring example of this is how much code is wasted supporting COPY and the TS-2040 printer. The same applies to much of LLIST. A similar situation exists in EXROM for tape operations, but this can be salvaged by modifying it so the mikrodrive and other tape loop devices can use it.

Some ROM routines, like SKIPIT, should be relocated back where they were originally; in this case down four bytes. The correct address was maintained intact in the routine PASSEM in

EXROM. Removing two of the barrier error calls get it back to the right HOME ROM address.

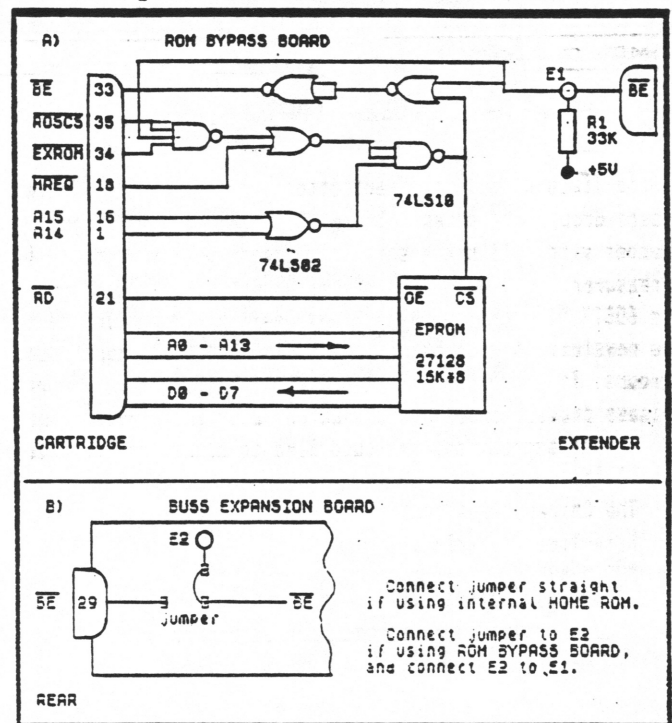
It is easy to go overboard and "fix" things which might please you, but not someone else; or assume an error exists when it is merely poorly understood how it was suppose to work. I have sweated many hours over something that looked wrong, then seeing something quite ingenious through the fog in my mind.

PLEASE, PLEASE contact me before going ahead with new ROM developments. I have made more mistakes than anybody!

William J. Petersen

1120 Merrifield S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Fig 1: HOME ROM BYPASS



NITE-TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

The Nite-Times Classified Ads are a service provided to all of our readers. Please submit your ads prior to the 15th of each month. They may be mailed to the Nite-Times News at 1885A Yorktown Avenue, Great Lakes, IL 60088.

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FOR SALE

ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS ZT- series remote terminal with built-in 300 baud modem, cables and power supply for 225.00 or best offer. For more information, contact:

AL FENG, 15 Wake Robin Court, Woodridge, IL 60517
(continued on page 3)

NITE-TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

continued from page 2

***** FULL COLOR SCREEN DUMPS for the TS-2068! *****

Now, with an OKIMATE 20 Printer, one of two possible Plug 'n Print interface configurations, and "COLOR COPY" software, a TS-2068 user can easily have screen\$ copied in FULL COLOR and black and white. The two I/F hardware configurations are:

- (1) An IBM parallel Plug 'n Print cartridge and an AERCO or OLIGER parallel printer I/F.
- (2) A COMMODORE 64/128 Plug 'n' Print cartridge and my COMMODORE serial port emulator I/F. (Note: This same I/F will interface a COMMODORE Printer/Plotter to a 2068 - write for more info and a sample plot.)

For more information on the I/F requirements and details on the software available for the OKIMATE 20, send a LSASE to:

John McMichael
1710 Palmer Drive
Laramie, WY 82070

* * * * *
FOR SALE

\$40.00 Large assortment of TS-1000 & TS-2068 software and books

\$29.00 TS-2040 Printer

00 TS-2050 Modem in original case with several manuals and terminal/BBS software

For more information, contact:

Gary Lessenberry
1885-A Yorktown Ave, Great Lakes, IL 60088
(312) 473-9415.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORNER

By Gary Lessenberry

A quick note to remind our Chicago Area Timexers that the Motorola Computer Club BBS (MCCBBS) at (312) 576-7072 does support the CATV6. It is a multi-user BBS that has three incoming lines and operates 24 hours each day. The system also offers email, bulletins and files transfers. When you call the MCCBBS, you will need to strike your enter key several times after which a carrot ">" will appear on your screen. You then enter LOG SINCLAIR/GUEST. This causes the system to log you on as SINCLAIR with the password of GUEST. Once you are in the system, leave a message to Bob Swoger, the sysop, identifying yourself as a Timexer and requesting an account. He will then set up an account for you where you use your last name to logon and your first name as your password. Therefore, future logons will be LOG LastName/FirstName.

I have put together a brief listing of telecommunications s for those who own modems, but know so little about them what they're affraid to try using them.

ASCII : The acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a widely used system for encoding letters, numerals, punctuation marks and signs as seven bit binary numbers.

BAUD : A unit for measuring the speed of data transmission. Many people interchange this term with BPS (Bits Per Second).

BUFFER : A "holding tank" within the computer. This is a portion of memory where incoming data can be captured and then saved to mass storage.

CARRIER : An audio signal on which the data from one modem is carried to and from another modem.

CONTROL CHARACTERS : A non printing character that's designed to send a special signal (such as a backspace or linefeed) to a remote computer.

DOWNLOAD : Capturing data in your buffer from another computer.

FULL DUPLEX : Communications between two computers where data is exchanged via simultaneous transmissions.

HALF DUPLEX : Communications between two computers where data is exchanged with only one system transmitting at a time.

LINK : Communications between two or more computers.

LOGON : Initial entry to a host computer system via modem.

LOGOFF : Disconnecting a link with a host system.

MACRO: A string of ASCII characters that can be transmitted by striking one key.

MODEM: An acronym for MODulator/DEModulator. A device that translate data into an audio signal and visa versa.

PARITY : A form of error checking used to check data that is being exchanged. Systems can be set to even, odd and no parity.

PARAMETERS : The initial settings of your telecommunications program that include, parity, stop bits, word length, and duplex.

STOP BITS : When a character is transmitted, one or two stop bits will be sent to inform the recieving system that a character has been sent.

SYSOP : The system operator who maintains and operates a computer bulletin board system.

TERMINAL MODE : That mode where your computer is online and you are communicating with another system.

WORD LENGTH : The actual number of bits that comprise one word. This is usuallt 7 or 8.

CATS CAPITALFEST INVITATION

Dear Timex/Sinclair Enthusiast:

We would like to take this oppotunity to invite you to attend the the upcoming Captital Area Timex/Sinclair Capitalfest on May 6 and May 7, 1989. A banquet will be on friday night, May 5, 1989.

The Fest will be held at the Howard Johnson Inn, Route 450 and the Beltway (eastside), New Carrollton, MD.

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CATS CAPITALFEST INVITATION

continued from page 3)

Howard Johnson's is conveniently located for easy access by road, subway (New Carrollton, MD stop), Amtrak from New York and Boston to the north and all points south, and by air into Washington National and Baltimore Washington International.

CATS, our users group, currently with over 100 members will be hosting this affair.

Sharp's, Zebra, and many other vendors will be sponsoring and attending.

Seminars, door prizes, and many surprises await you.

This Capitalfest will be fully advertised with thousands of flyers being sent all over the country.

Hotel room rate is \$62.00 a night along with one free admission to the show.

A banquet on Friday night will cost around \$17.00.

Tables will be \$25.00 each.

If you are interested in more information, please let us know.

Get the details from us! We'd love to have you at the Fest!

C.A.T.S. CAPITALFEST

P.O. Box 24

Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0024

telephone: (301) 439-8756

JANUARY C.A.T.U.G. MEETING

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group meets on the second Saturday of each month in the Downers Grove Public Library's Conference Room, from 12:00 to 5:00. Our next meeting will be on the 14th of January. The library is located at 1050 Curtiss Street in Downers Grove. The CATUG coordinator for our meetings is Steve Cooper and he can be contacted during the evening at (312) 968-3553.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH: Take I-294 (Tri-State Tollway) south to I-88 (East West Tollway). Drive west on I-88 and exit at Highland Avenue. Take Highland south about three miles, during which it's name will change to Main Street. You will cross the Burlington-Northern tracks in downtown Downers Grove and turn right (west) at the next street (Burlington). Proceed one block to Forest Ave. At the intersection of Forest and Burlington is a public parking lot. The Library is located one block south of Burlington at the intersection of Curtiss and Forest. Please note that Burlington is a one-way street (westbound) and Curtiss is a one-way street (eastbound).

DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH: Take I-55 (Stevenson Expway) to the Lemont Rd North exit. Take Lemont Road north about four miles during which it will merge into Main Street. As you go into downtown Downers Grove, you will pass Curtiss Street, and turn left at the next intersection (Burlington), which is the last street before you cross the railroad tracks. Proceed one

block west to Forest Ave. At the intersection of Forest and Burlington is a public parking lot. The Library is located one block south of Burlington at the intersection of Curtiss and Forest. Please note that Burlington is a one-way street (westbound) and Curtiss is a one-way street (eastbound).

TIMEX TIDBITS

The RAMTOP reports that the Nov or Dec issue of Radio Electronics magazine has ZX-81 kits (NEW!) advertized for \$49.95!

Robert Parrish has announced that he is creating a nation wide user group called The Great Ammerican Sinclair User Group. It is suppose to be oriented to telecommunications. So if you desire more information call the Timelines BBS (216) 671-6922.

The CATUG has recieved new catalogs jb Technologies Inc and Ed Grey Enterprises.

Back issues of SINCUS News are available on three Oliger disks (1983/4, 1985, 1986). Each disk is \$6.00. Send to SINCUS News, 1229 Rhodes Rd, Johnson City, NY 13790.

Looking for another TS-2068? The LISTing Newsletter reports that the Brooklyn Closeout Corporation still have them for sale and they are willing to bargain.

Heat transfer ribbons to create T-Shirt graphics from your fullsize computer printer are available from RENCO Computer Supplies, P.O. Box 475, Manteno, IL 60950, tel: 800/522-6922.

The RMG BBS went permanently down on 23 November. To replace it, the CCAT/S User Group have established a sub-board on the REMEMBER WHEN BBS (503) 652-5803. It's a 24 hour system that operates at both 300 and 1200 baud with logon parameters of 8/1/N. The Timex sub-board (Base #8) is called SINCLAIR USERS UNITE!

CATUG LIBRARY NOTES

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group Library has received the following listed articles from other user groups via our newsletter exchange. The newsletters with these articles will be available for check out at the monthly CATUG meetings.

KATS Komputer Knews (Dec 1988)

KATS Icons

SMUG Bytes (Nov 1988)

Modifying The Star NX-1000 With The Aerco Printer I/F

Bill On Mscript

QL Boot Program

Net On The QL

The Data Bus (Nov 1988)

Timex Sinclair News

The Data Bus (Dec 1988)

Garage Sale Cash Register (TS-1000 Prog)

ZX-Appeal (Nov/Dec 1988)

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CATUG LIBRARY NOTES

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Sinc-Linc (Nov-Dec 1988)

MScript 5.3 Review

Sound Port: Project Correction

QL Beginners Section

Mini-Motherboard Hardware Project

Larken RS232 (Z-SI/D) Printer Driver

Tasword And The Larken Printer Driver

Larken DOS Lottery Program

SINCUS News (Nov-Dec 1988)

ZX81 Tips

Exploring The TS-1000's Sinclair Logic Chip (SLC)

Paul's Page On Pascal

VISTA Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 5)

Micro Stuffer 64K Printer Buffer Review

REM Creator (TS-1000 Prog)

The RAMTOP (Oct/Nov 1988)

The World Of Midi

FOO Express (Dec 1988)

CP/M Terminal

The Hacker (Dec 1988)

COMDEX Ends Its 10th Year Fest

Indiana Sinclair-Timex Newsletter (Nov 1988)

A Quick Wafadrive Conversion For TS-2068 VU-File

Plotter (Dec 1988)

RANDISK Backup And Restore Utility (2068 Prog)

Oliger Safe V 2.5 Disk Operating System

HATS Newsletter (Dec 1988)

Perfidia (2068 Prog)

Timelinez (Nov 1988)

Paycheck Analyst (QL Prog)

The Incredible Shrinking Screen (2068 Prog)

LISTing Newsletter (Nov 1988)

Data Compression For The 2068 and Other Stuff

Personal Money Management Program (TS-1000)

Checkbook Management (TS-1000 Prog)

Keeping Time In The Home office (TS-1000 Prog)

CATS Newsletter (Dec 1988)

QL On The QT

More Fun With The Larken Drive System

Transferring Files: 2068 To QL

Q! Boot For The 2068 Aerco Disk System

TIMEX/SINCLAIR BBS DIRECTORY

(December 1988)

BULLETIN BOARD	NUMBER	NOTES	RATES
WYSIWYG BBS	(201) 955-7703	8 L D @ W	15/14
TIME(X)CHANGE BBS	(213) 329-3922	8 H D @ W	17/15
GREY MATTER BBS	(213) 971-6250	8 M D @ W	17/15
RON'S RDS	(817) 540-4183	8 D @ W	16/15
CLEVELAND FREE-NET BBS	(216) 368-3888	7 L @ S	15/14
TIMELINES BBS	(216) 671-6922	8 H D % W	15/14
TSU BBS	(216) 327-1099	8 H D W	15/14
KINGS MARKET BBS	(303) 665-6091	8 M D @ W	16/15
ASTRAL PLANE BBS	(312) 476-7785	8 L D @ W	-----
MOTOROLA COMPUTER CLUB BBS	(312) 576-7072	8 L D @ W	-----
SERIAL PORT BBS	(313) 286-0145	8 H D W	15/13
ACCESS*LINE*BBS	(317) 841-7072	8 L D W	14/12
LOGON BBS	(415) 571-6911	8 M D @ W	16/14
LOGON BBS	(408) 475-0880	8 M D @ W	16/14
IOWA SINCLAIR BBS	(515) 282-4169	8 M D W	15/13
NICHOLSON NIGHTTIME NETWORK	(604) 354-4666	8 H D ? W	32/27
OFAPC BBS	(607) 754-3420	8 L D W	16/15
D.C.E. BBS	(614) 423-7879	7 L D @ W	16/15
THE TIMEWARP BBS	(617) 481-0555	7 L D ? W	16/15
FLEXI BBS	(617) 648-7651	8 L @ W	16/15
FLASH! BBS	(702) 644-6910	8 M D 1	16/14
NIGHT BYTE BBS	(718) 627-1293	8 L D % W	15/14
THE BUS DEPOT BBS	(904) 262-6761	8 L D ? W	16/15

TIMEX BBS DIRECTORY LEGEND

7	PARAMETERS = 7/E/1	8	PARAMETERS = 8/N/1
D	TIMEX FILE TRANSFERS	L	LOW USAGE T/S MSG BASE
M	MEDIUM USAGE T/S MSG BASE	H	HIGH USAGE T/S MSG BASE
\$	SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED	%	OPERATION DURING EVENINGS
@	ACCESSIBLE VIA PC PURSUIT	?	DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
S	SUMMER VERIFICATION	F	FALL VERIFICATION
W	WINTER VERIFICATION	P	SPRING VERIFICATION

RATES ARE THE CHARGES FROM CHICAGO FOR THE FIRST MINUTE & EACH FOLLOWING MINUTE AFTER 11:00 PM AND ON WEEKENDS.

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP
(December 1988)

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DAVE LEBOWITZ:
934 GARDNER ROAD, FLOSSMOOR, IL 60422 (312) 798-4365
GARY L. LESSENBERRY:
1885A YORKTOWN AVE., GREAT LAKES, IL 60088 (312) 473-9415
LEOPOLD MAJEWSKI:
14120 WINDSOR CT., WOODSTOCK, IL 60098 UNLISTED
JAMES McCALL:
523 W. BROMPTON AVE. #114, CHICAGO IL 60657 (312) 472-6036
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417 S.-47TH AVE, BELLWOOD, IL 60104 (312) 544-1918
NAZIR PASHTOON:
940 BEAU DRIVE #204, DES PLAINES, IL 60016 (312) 439-1679
LAWRENCE P. SAUTER:
7747 W. BRYN MAWR, CHICAGO, IL 60631 (312) 763-5383
EDWIN SCHOEN:
P.O. BOX 9076, DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60515 (312) 852-9372
AL SHERMAN:
9216 MARIE, SCHILLER PARK, IL 60176 (312) 671-2720
GREG SIMMONS:
1625 SOUTH LIVINGSTON, PEORIA, IL UNKNOWN
BOB SWOGER:
613 PARKSIDE CIRCLE, STREAMWOOD, IL 60107 (312) 837-7957

LEE THORESEN:
45 HICKORY LANE, CRETE, IL 60417 (312) 672-9066
JOHN ULREICH:
203 NAUVOO, PARK FORREST, IL 60466 (312) 748-6004
BUTCH WEINBERG:
5028 1/2 S. ELLIS, CHICAGO, IL 60615 UNLISTED

* Out Of Town CATUG Members *

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2-29-3 NISHI OGI MINAMI, SUBINAMI-KU, TOKYO 167 JAPAN
ROBERT CURNUTT:
10400 TRUXTON RD., ADELPHI, MD 20783
PETE FISCHER:
P.O. BOX 60781, PHOENIX, AZ 85082-0781 RUTH FEGLEY:
Apt E-1, 6000 IVYDENE TERRACE, BALTIMORE, MD 21209
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WILLIAM POWDEN:
R.R. 1, BOX 364, BRIDGEPORT IL 62417
JOHN J. SHEPARD
R2, BOX 4080, COLDWATER, MS 38618
JAY S. SIEGLE:
1616 55TH STREET, BASEMENT APT, BROOKLYN, NY 11204-1823

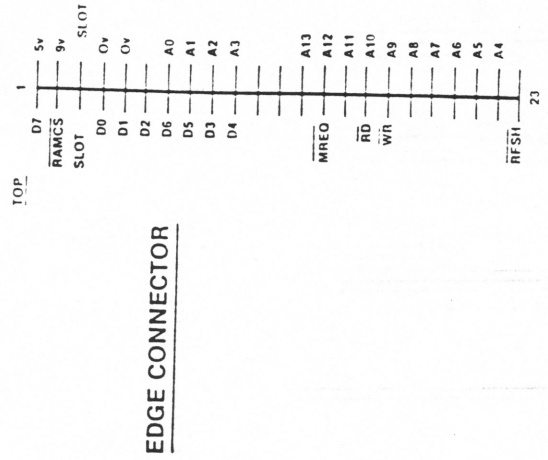
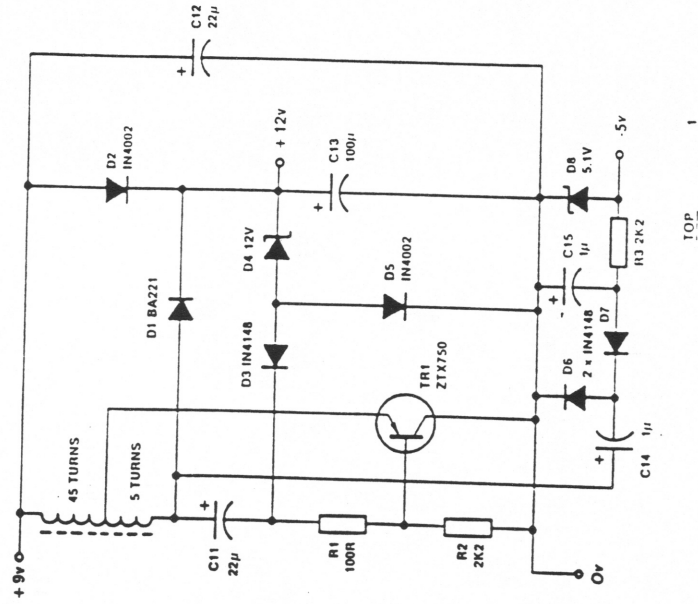
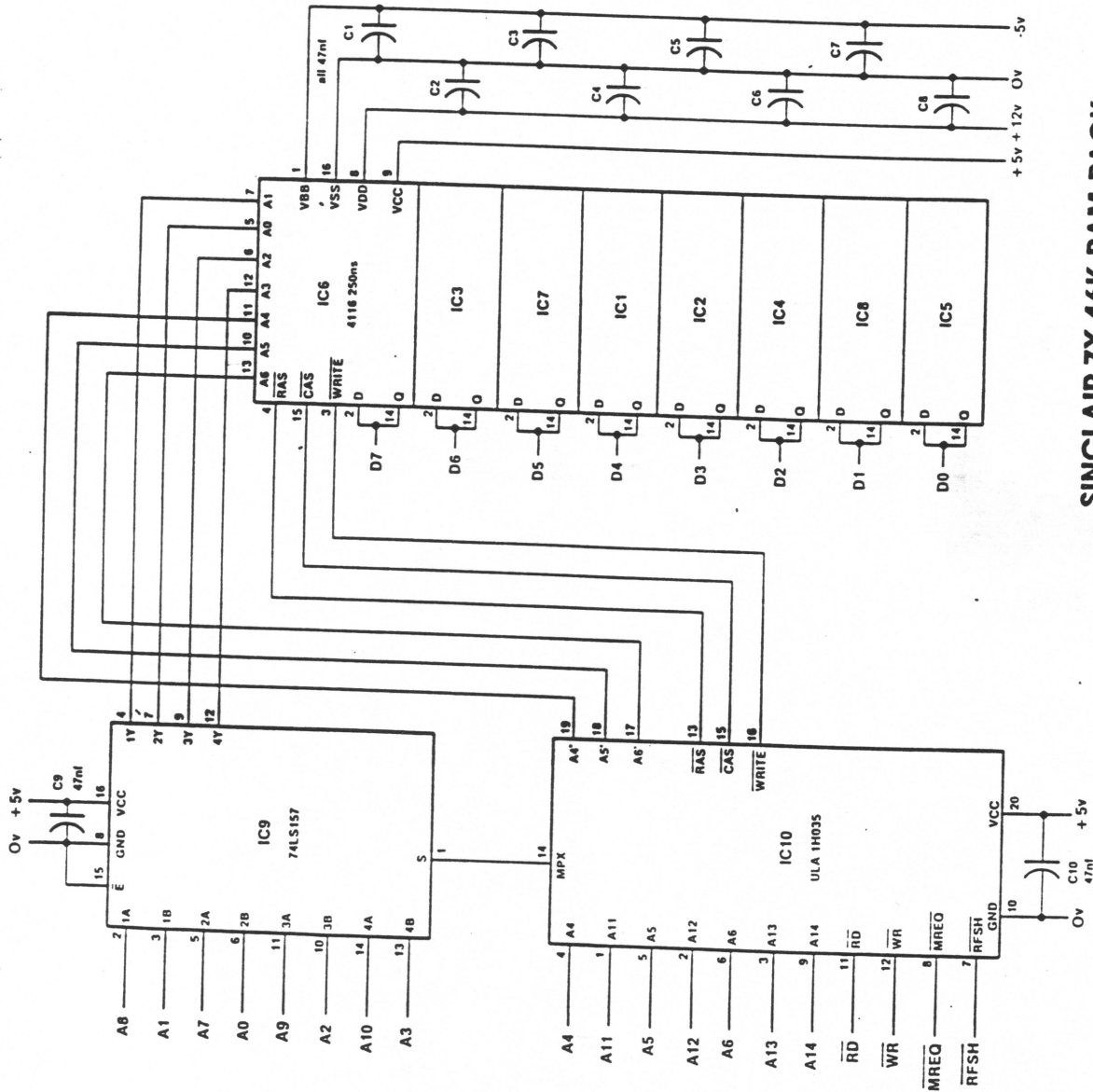
To become a member of the Chicago Area Timex User Group, send your name, address, phone number, and computer system description with ten dollars to the CATUG treasurer, Al Feng, Wake Robin Ct, Woodridge, IL 60517. In return, you will receive all the issues of the Nite Times News for the current calendar year, access to the CATUG text and software libraries and participation in group purchases.

SURVIVALIST NOTES

Each month, we will try to include schematics for various peices of Timex and Sinclair equipment. This month, we are providing a schematic of a ZX81/TS-1000 16K RAM Pack.

If you have have some schematics that you would like to share with your fellow Timexers, send them to:

Editor, Nite-Times News
1985-A Yorktown Avenue
Great Lakes, IL 60088.



SINCLAIR ZX 16K RAM PACK

